Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for screening a sample for the presence of *K. brevis*, comprising:

subjecting the sample to amplification using a pair of oligonucleotide primers capable of amplifying a target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis*; and

~~applying an amplification process to the sample in the presence of a primer, specific to a target nucleotide sequence unique to *K. brevis*; and~~

assaying the ~~sample~~ mRNA for the presence of the ~~probe~~ amplified target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) unique to *K. brevis*.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the ~~target nucleotide sequence comprises the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis*~~ pair of oligonucleotide primers specifically amplify mRNA od a target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis* and do not amplify a region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. mikimotoi.*

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis* ~~nucleotide sequence~~ is about 87 to 91 base pairs in length

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the amplification process is selected from the group consisting of real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and quantitative thermocycling.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the pair of oligonucleotide primers ~~at least one primer comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting~~ consist of SEQ. ID. No. 1 and SEQ. ID. No. 2.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the pair of oligonucleotide primers ~~at least one primer is~~ are specific to a target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis* ~~a nucleotide sequence~~ about 91 base pairs in length.

22. Cancelled
23. Cancelled
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the amplification process is applied to the sample in the presence of a probe.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the probe ~~comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting~~ consists of SEQ. ID. No. 6.
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the amplification process is real time nucleic acid sequence based amplification.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein the pair of oligonucleotide primers ~~at least one primer comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting~~ consist of SEQ. ID. No. 4 and SEQ. ID. No. 5.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the amplification process is applied to sample in the presence of a probe.
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the probe comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ. ID. No. 3.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein the pair of oligonucleotide primers ~~at least one primer~~ is specific to a target region of the ribulose 1, 5-biphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase large subunit (rbcL) of *K. brevis* ~~a nucleotide sequence~~ about 87 base pairs in length.
31. (Withdrawn)
32. (Withdrawn)
33. (Withdrawn)
34. (Withdrawn)
35. (Withdrawn)
36. (Withdrawn)